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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

SUMMER 1969

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A Life Membership in The Nature Conservancy is conferred upon the payment by an individual of $300 designated for the Guarantee & Income Fund. This fund serves a two-fold purpose. The securities in which the fund is invested may be used as collateral for loans to aid land preservation projects which the Board of Governors recommends for interim financing. At the same time, the income from the investments supports the national as well as the chapter operations of the Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy is a member-governed organization, incorporated in the District of Columbia for non-profit educational and scientific purposes. The National Office is in Washington, D. C., and Regional Offices are located in Evanston, Illinois; San Francisco, California; and Washington.

The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1951. The Conservancy's first effort at land-saving was the Mianus River Gorge in Westchester County, New York, in 1954. This very successful endeavor turned out to be the forerunner of 350 projects in which the Conservancy has since been involved. These 350 sanctuaries are located in forty states and total approximately 115,000 acres.

The Nature Conservancy works closely not only with numerous scientific and conservation organizations but with municipal and state governments as well as the federal government.

The Nature Conservancy is the organization rallying the skills, the techniques, and the funds actually necessary to save land. Its total resources are massed for this one objective.

THE
NATURE CONSERVANCY
NEWS

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William Canine, Editor

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Cover: Lower Tubbs Island: San Francisco Bay. (Photo by John A. Knaggs.)

Westport, Connecticut

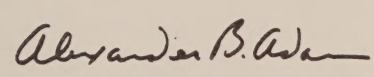
The environmental problems posed today, if they are to be overcome rather than just pushed around, require a massive and direct nationwide assault. It is a time for all national organizations with similar goals to work together. It is a time for teamwork among all the components of each organization.

No single organization can hope to do everything. It must concentrate on what it does best while lending full support to the other organizations. The Nature Conservancy has painstakingly over the past fifteen years drawn the boundaries of the area in which we are most experienced and skillful, the actual acquisition of land for preservation. Within that area we have attempted to do a preeminently good job. The recent establishment of the Joint Committee for Land Conservation with the National Audubon Society is evidence of the respect its sister organizations have for the Conservancy. The line of credit from the Ford Foundation exemplifies the resources for the benefit of conservation that may be opened to a national organization doing its job particularly well. Now the American Motors Company has given its national award for 1969 to the Conservancy. Certainly in part this award comes in recognition of the uniquely productive relationship that for some years has existed between the Conservancy and its chapters.

It is difficult to guess what direction the Conservancy might have taken had it been differently organized. I do not believe it could have functioned as well as it has. The volunteer workers have ably done their primary job of finding natural areas that should be saved, reporting on them, raising the funds if necessary to buy them, and then safeguarding them. These are responsibilities carried out most effectively at a local level. The job of the staff is to weld a far-flung membership into a cohesive national organization that stands explicitly for something. This, clearly, has been accomplished. A national reputation, a name inspiring trust, guaranteed continuity and permanence—all these must be an organization's if it is to receive custody of precious lands, if it is to raise significant funds, if it is to generate the publicity that helps make it more effective. Only a national organization can assume the enormous responsibility associated with such projects as the Kipahulu Valley, Mason Neck, or St. Vincent Island.

The relationship of parent to offspring is not ever an easy one. Certain expectations exist on both sides, expectations which are not always met. But for the most part, the relationship between national and the local chapters has been a happy one, and certainly an advantageous one.

Today the key phrase for conservationists, environmentalists, humanitarians—all—should be, "Think big." Now at last the general public is becoming aware that we have not been crying "Wolf" all this time, and the battle can be won. If your experience has been like mine, you will agree that conservationists are, if nothing else, individualists. But it is teamwork, above all else, that is needed now.



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In the past three months, the Conservancy has continued to assume responsibility for new projects, ranging in size from 0.4 acre to 7,200 acres. As usual, there is an enormous range of environments represented—desert, marsh, island, woodland, hammock, and so on. The total acreage of these new projects is over 16,000.

FURNACE CREEK INHOLDING—DEATH VALLEY (Inyo County, California). This 7,200-acre inholding in Death Valley National Monument has been purchased for the National Park Service and is the first to be made under the Ford Line of Credit. Though thought of as the epitome of dryness, Death Valley is in fact well-watered for a desert region, the Furnace Creek area particularly well so.

MEYERS PROPERTY—LAKE TAHOE (Eldorado County, California). On the Tahoe shore, this 48-acre tract is chiefly forest. It is being held for the U. S. Forest Service.

THE RODNEY JOHNSON PRESERVE (FIVE LAKES) (Placer County, California). This 160-acre tract west of Tahoe City, a private inholding touching on the largest of the Five Lakes, has been purchased through use of the Rodney Johnson Wilderness Fund and is being held for the U. S. Forest Service. The preservation of this trailhead sets up a 28-square mile wilderness.

GREENWICH COVE MARSHES (Fairfield County, Connecticut). A small but excellent piece of salt marsh, this area is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kisluk of Old Greenwich.

WEIR NATURE PRESERVE (Fairfield County, Connecticut). Thirty-seven acres of recovering farmland with good hardwoods, this area is a gift of Mrs. Cora Weir Burlingham.

FUCHS HAMMOCK (Dade County, Florida). (See page 13.)

TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS (Collier County, Florida). The project covers an area of 5,060 acres, of which 1,735 acres are surveyed islands. It is an outstanding estuarine nursery for shell and fin fish, as well as habitat for wading birds. Just northwest of the Everglades National Park, its significance is obvious. The Collier County Conservancy is co-sponsoring the project.

T. RICHARDS

Canelo Hills Cienega in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, is a new project of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Project Committee. The word cienega *is a Spanish word used in the Southwest to describe a marsh usually formed by hillside springs. This particular cienega is unusually low in elevation for an Arizona wet meadow and is described as one of the finest remaining cienegas in southern Arizona. Unusual plants abound, with the most unusual being* Spiranthes michuacana, *a very rare orchid in Arizona. The cienega is described by one observer as follows: "The beauty of the Canelo Hills is that you have left the desert completely behind and, if you wanted to kid yourself, you could think you were in the middle of Vermont . . . an entirely different world from the cactus and the desert—a charming and unexpected relief." Fund raising for the Canelo Hills Cienega is now taking place. Approximately $40,000 is the cost.*

WOLF ISLAND (McIntosh County, Georgia). In Altamaha Sound, about 20 miles northeast of Brunswick, Georgia, lies this 4,000-acre salt marsh island. On the Atlantic side, 538 acres are federally owned, but the remainder has been in private hands. The Conservancy has purchased 2,840 acres and a one-third interest in another 600. Wolf Island is an important sanctuary for migrating seafowl. Loggerhead turtles nest on the island.

BARRED ISLAND (Hancock County, Maine). A 2-acre rocky, wooded island, habitat for shorebirds, this is a gift of Miss Carolyn Olmsted.

BIG GARDEN ISLAND (Knox County, Maine). General and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh have made a gift of this 25-acre island off Vinalhaven. The island has a small cove and a beach.

BLAGDEN PRESERVE (Hancock County, Maine). On Mount Desert Island, this dense coastal spruce forest has a 2,000-foot shoreline at Indian Point. The tract is 110 acres and is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Blagden.

MEADOW MOUNTAIN RESERVATION (Knox County, Maine). A 281-acre hardwood forest bordering on Quiggle Brook, the preserve is the gift of Mr. Edmund P. Livingston. Located near Warren, Meadow Mountain is thickly wooded and supports a varied fauna, including moose.

CHANCELLOR'S POINT (St. Mary's County, Maryland). This property, of approximately 66

acres, lies a mile south of the reconstructed State House at St. Mary's City, the site of Maryland's original capital. It fronts about 3,000 feet on the east bank of the St. Mary's River and is mainly gently rolling wooded plains on a low bluff. It includes a small natural lagoon at which ducks winter in massive numbers.

LOESS MOUNDS (Holt County, Missouri). This property, a gift of Mr. Jamerson C. McCormack, includes 117 acres of oak-hickory climax forest on mounds of considerable geological significance. A portion of the Squaw Creek Loess Mounds, the area has long been used for field studies by three colleges. The tract is adjacent to the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

HOOK POND SANCTUARY (Suffolk County, New York). This one-acre shore area of an ice-free pond, in which ducks winter, is a gift of Mr. James A. Moffett, II.

MATTHESON MEADOWS (Suffolk County, New York). Situated on Lloyd Neck, the preserve consists mostly of open fields and meadow. A gift of Mrs. Anna M. Wood, it is a little over 38 acres.

PAGE PRESERVE—FOX HOLLOW (Nassau County, New York). In the village of Laurel Hollow, this 27-acre tract is a typical Long Island hardwood forest with some meadow.

UPLANDS FARM (Suffolk County, New York). This property is an excellent example of rural farmland only 15 miles northeast of New York Ctiy. The 36 acres included in the preserve are mature hardwood forest and meadow. The tract overlooks Cold Spring Harbor.

COGSWELL-FOSTER RESERVE (Linn County, Oregon). This project consists of 112 acres of typical Willamette Valley flora, including 100-year-old oaks with associated ash in lowlands. South of Halsey, the tract is a gift of Mrs. Lucille Foster, whose maiden name was Cogswell. The land has never been lumbered nor tilled.

SHEFF'S WOODS (Smith County, Texas). A 75-acre tract of sandy hillsides sloping down to lush creek bottom, Sheff's Woods is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Sheffield. The mixed pine-hardwoods is habitat for numerous birds, particularly warblers, vireos and bluebirds.

Drawing by Alan Dunn.
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A BODY OF WATER, NOT REAL ESTATE

It is an incredible fact that whereas in 1850 San Francisco Bay covered 680 square miles, it has today been reduced to 430 square miles. More than one third of what was the Bay is now either filled or diked off for salt ponds or managed wetland. Despite public outcry, another ten square miles was "reclaimed" between 1957 and 1967, and at this time development proposals pending would fill another 59 square miles.

Of the Bay it has been said that for too many it represents "some of the most valuable real estate in California." Its vulnerability lies in its shallowness; since 70% of the Bay is less than 18 feet deep, waterfront property can be "created" at comparatively low cost. In addition, much of the Bay has been sold by the state to private interests so that today 22% is claimed to be privately owned. Cities and counties on the Bay hold another 23%, the state of California 50%, and the federal government 5%.

The problems of saving San Francisco Bay are, therefore, immense, and the pressures intense. The lines between those who would continue plundering the Bay and those who would save it are being drawn ever more tightly and distinctly.

The Nature Conservancy, through action of the Board of Governors, has authorized the creation, within the Western Regional Office, of the San Francisco Bay Project. The Conservancy recognizes that the problems of preserving San Francisco Bay lands require the establishment of a special program under the administration of a full-time project director.

Speaking of the Conservancy's new San Francisco Bay Project, Western Regional Director Huey D. Johnson noted that though the ecological crisis of the Bay and its shoreline has created intense interest and concern, "pressures for filling the Bay and developing its shoreline have also seen new heights. The resulting tensions will be with us indefinitely. One great omission concerning the Bay has been apparent. At present there is no agency carrying on a concerted area-wide effort to preserve key natural lands by acquiring those lands permanently.

"The one overriding goal of the Conservancy's Bay Project is to preserve as many acres of land in their natural state for the longest time and at the least expense as is humanly possible. Every operation of the Project will be subservient to this goal, and every priority will be established with it in mind."

Gregory Archbald, a practicing attorney who has served actively in San Francisco conservation affairs and is a member of numerous conservation organizations, has been appointed director of the San Francisco Bay Project of The Nature Conservancy.

The first project of this new program of the Conservancy is Lower Tubbs Island (See photographs on cover and on inside back cover). The island lies east of the mouth of Petaluma River in San Pablo Bay, a northern arm of San Francisco Bay. It lies in Sonoma County, is approximately 330 acres in extent, and the price is about $300,000. Fund-raising for the Lower Tubbs Island Project is underway.

The island is a key tract in the preservation of San Pablo Bay, where the major portion of the Pacific Flyway canvasback duck population winters. In recent years, the declining canvasback population has been of concern to conservationists, but in San Pablo Bay the average mid-winter population has been maintained at 40,000. Lower Tubbs Island is also an important shorebird habitat.

THE PROFESSOR, THE COLLEGE, AND THE CONSERVANCY

by J. ARTHUR HERRICK

The author is professor of biology at Kent State University in Ohio and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

A natural area may be defined as a tract of land or water which is essentially virgin. It should have been very little changed from what it was prior to the coming of Western civilization. Such gems are rapidly disappearing. There is a growing alarm and a concomitant enthusiasm for saving what is left. Man needs open space for clean air, clean water, clean minds, and many other purposes. We need *bona fide* natural areas for scientific studies and for the teaching of natural science. Some of man's needs are well served by typical parks and forests. Other needs can only be met by virgin wilderness which is not man-managed, except to prevent excessive damage by man. This is where the natural areas fit in. We have multitudes of citizens willing to pay taxes and otherwise to support park programs, state forests, and fishing and hunting preserves. These areas are not hard to come by because "everyone" understands what they are and why they are needed. The concept and appreciation of the importance of natural areas is only now becoming widely known. Until now, Ohio has been fighting to civilize the wilderness. Suddenly we have realized that the remnants are worth fighting for to preserve.

Because of a growing awareness of the disappearance of natural areas in Ohio, the Ohio Biological Survey elected to study the situation. From 1958 to 1965, I was very active all over Ohio as leader of the Natural Areas Project of the Ohio Biological Survey. We located, examined, and published data upon many of Ohio's best remnants of the original landscape. During the mid-sixties, I gradually replaced state-wide survey efforts with northeastern Ohio preservation efforts.

It was in 1958 that a chapter of The Nature Conservancy was organized in Ohio. During its first decade in Ohio The Nature Conservancy acquired lands in a dozen Ohio counties. In addition to acquiring natural areas by gift, or by purchase with donated funds, The Nature Conservancy has played significant roles in helping other conservation-oriented agencies to acquire and so preserve several unique natural areas. For example, The Nature Conservancy was involved in the success of the Stark Wilderness Center and Cedar Forks by the Ohio Historical Survey, and Stumpy Basin and Clifton Gorge by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

I joined the staff of Kent State University in February 1938. The teaching of local flora was one of my first assignments. It was fun. It still is. Over the years our program in field biology has grown along with the university. We have the finest curriculum and facilities in field biology to be found in Ohio today. How did it happen and how can we keep it that way in the face of the growing megalopolis in northeastern Ohio?

Our development in this direction was in no small way due to the fact that Kent State was founded in an ideal spot for such development. Within a short distance of Kent we had Stow Gorge, Virginia Kendall Park, Nelson Ledges, Dollar Lake, Fern Lake, Mantua Swamp, and other choice virgin habitats. Northeastern Ohio had many glacial peat bogs rich in northern types of life. There were many hills covered with oak-chestnut forests. The Cuyahoga River passes through Kent on its way to Lake Erie. Only eight miles to the east is the Mahoning River, which flows south on its way to the Gulf. Brady Lake, Twin Lakes, and others are near. Nature endowed our location with a great wealth of biological habitats. As KSU grew from an enrollment of a thousand or so to over 20,000 students, our staff grew to include specialists who could take advantage of our vast natural areas resources.

The virgin glacial peat bogs which were behind the campus in 1940 are now in the center of the campus and have been destroyed to make way for dormitories and other campus improvements. Stow Gorge is now heavily used as Adell Durbin Park. Nelson Ledges State Park sees mobs of trampling feet each nice weekend. It has lost much of its rich flora. Haas Woods, which once served us so well, has been logged and re-logged. The pressures of population, an expanding economy, ease of transportation, and related factors are fast destroying the natural biological resources of northeastern Ohio. This is really not news, but it nevertheless is tragic.

GLENN L. BERKEY

Browns Lake Bog, Ohio

As such areas become more scarce, the need and desire for the education and training only such areas can provide become greater for scientists, teachers, conservationists, nature lovers, and others.

It is late but not too late. We have a plan. We are making progress. Much needs doing fast while places worthy of concern still exist. Our plan is to build a system of natural areas which we control and, therefore, can maintain for future generations of KSU students and northeastern Ohio people in general. We are making progress and have dreams of more to come.

Carl and Mrs. Kimball of Madison, Ohio, owned a near-virgin forest which they had long appreciated. Knowing that they, like us, were mortal, they wanted to do what they could to guarantee that this best remaining bit of mesophytic forest in their area could remain forever such.

As part of my work with the Natural Areas Project, Ohio Biological Survey, I saw the woods and met the Kimballs. It was love at first sight. I was also much involved in the affairs of The Nature Conservancy. In 1962, the Kimballs gave a 57-acre tract including the virgin forest to the Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy has no machinery for the management of nature preserves, but is chiefly interested in having the areas in safe keeping. Lynx Prairie and Buzzardroost in Adams County were bought by The Nature Conservancy and deeded to the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. Clifton Gorge, in southwest Ohio, another Conservancy project, is now owned by the state of Ohio. Dysart Woods in Belmont County became the property of Ohio University. Brown's Lake Bog was purchased by the Conservancy and deeded to the College of Wooster. Such is the way of The Nature Conservancy program.

In 1963, The Nature Conservancy deeded Kimball Woods to Kent State University. In 1967, Mrs. Kimball, now widowed, added to the nature sanctuary so that today KSU owns approximately 100 acres at Madison. The initial Kimball Woods gift served as a stimulus to a dream I had been having. As I looked at many wild spots in northeastern Ohio, I had begun to dream of a natural areas system for KSU. It was largely a dream until the Kimballs gave their wood to the Conservancy. Today the dream is a fast expanding reality.

In 1965, due to the alertness of a fellow member of The Nature Conservancy, I learned that the state of Ohio was going out of business as far as the Ohio canal was concerned. Proper actions were taken and now KSU holds a deed for about 22 acres of swamp land, known as Stumpy Basin, at Peninsula. The area has been undisturbed since the canal stopped functioning more than a century ago. Today it is a choice bit of wet wilderness.

For many years local nature lovers have beat a path to Jennings Woods on the Mahoning

River near Ravenna. KSU biology classes joined this parade years ago, and today hundreds of students per year visit Jennings Woods to study. Mrs. Ralph Jennings has a high appreciation of the natural history value of the woods. Because of her enthusiasm she saw fit to offer the 70 acres of woods to KSU at a price far below its market value. Because of our already heavy use of the woods and its availability at a low cost, KSU now owns the woods.

In 1967, Austin Beverly of Akron died. He willed his personal 42-acre retreat near Randolph, 13 miles southeast of Kent, to the National Audibon Society. Audubon expressed concern that they were in no position to accept, because the will specified that the area be "maintained as a nature sanctuary." They consulted me for advice. I gave it freely. Result: KSU is now leasing this tract from the National Audubon Society for 99 years at no cost to KSU. We are legally responsible for managing the area as a nature sanctuary.

In the fall of 1968, Mr. R. H. Loomis of Ravenna gave the whole of Brady Lake, at the edge of Kent, to KSU. The surrounding lands are well occupied by houses, but even so, there is much room for the study of aquatic biology in the lake itself.

During recent months I have expanded my dream of a natural area system for the university to include all of northeastern Ohio, where the branches of the university proliferate. I have discussed this dream with University officials as well as with biologists at our main campus and at some of our branches. My dream now is to acquire natural areas (swamps, woods, lakes, gorges, and so forth) throughout the area served by Kent State University. This dream seems attainable.

Kimball Woods is already being used by Professor Beckett and his students of the Ashtabula branch. Ashtabula County is still rich in wild spots worthy of our concern.

At Perry, Ohio, about five miles from Kimball Woods is an 18-acre swamp forest. Like the Kimballs before, the owner, Frank Daykin, was eager to know that his gem would be safe even after he is gone. In 1963, Mr. Daykin solved his problem by deeding the swamp to The Nature Conservancy. Because of a housing project adjacent to the swamp, The Nature Conservancy borrowed money and bought several lots as a way of protecting the wilderness. At the November 23, 1968, meeting of the Conservancy Board, it was agreed that as soon as I can raise money and have debt and survey problems resolved that the property will be turned over to KSU to become a part of our Northeastern Ohio Natural Areas System.

There is a KSU branch at Warren. About ten miles west of Warren and 20 miles from Kent, there is a 283-acre tract of land transversed by the Mahoning River. The area belonged to the United States government but was no longer needed. On February 5, 1969, the land was transferred to KSU ownership. The application from the university for this land included plans for the low, wet, and wilder portion to be used as a biology area. It is my opinion that close to 150 acres will be assigned to the Department of Biological Sciences.

Yes, "things are a 'poppin'."

In Carroll County, about equally distant from four KSU branches, The Nature Conservancy owns a 62-acre swamp. I have reasons to think that KSU could have it, with a reverter clause, for the asking. I intend to ask.

Our latest success is the Frame Wilderness area about five miles north of Kent. This is a tract of about 75 acres, including a portion of Tinkers Creek, a lake, a tamarack-sphagnum bog, upland and swamp forest and sedge and cattail swamp areas. The wide variety of habitat means a great wealth of species of plant and animal life and of resources for teaching, research or just plain nature study. This area is now being acquired as a project of The Nature Conservancy. The 130-acre Frame farm was purchased for $65,000. The buildings and about 50 acres of the farmlands are being sold to help towards raising the $65,000. The balance will come from donations from nature lovers. When the project is complete, KSU will have another 75 acres of choice wild area close enough to the campus to be very useful.

As time goes on, this program should gain momentum. Nothing succeeds like success. I have high hopes and expectations of more donations of lands, money, as well as bequests. Our dreams include Kent State University at Kent, at Ashtabula, at Warren, and all our other branches. It should be understood that this program will be of value to all people and not just the university. We will merely be the custodian of a public trust. The value of this system will become much more obvious as private lands are "improved" and as typical public lands are developed more and more into playgrounds for boats, hunters, fishermen, campers, and so forth. We need them all, but we also need natural areas and they must be saved now. Tomorrow is too late! To succeed, we need the help of all who are able to help.

We have just started. You will hear more of this.

MINNESOTA EXCHANGE

The Keiss Great Blue Heron Rookery in Stearns County, Minnesota is a 55.6-acre tract located in an isolated wooded section of the Sauk River flood plain. With a stable nesting population of 800 birds, it is an outstanding rookery. In May, an editorial in the Minneapolis Tribune *congratulating the Conservancy on the acquisition brought a critical letter, which the newspaper printed. Edith Peller, librarian of the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota, and a Conservancy member, promptly responded. The interchange appears below.*

SAVING THE BLUE HERON

In contrast to gloomy predictions about urban sprawl and diminishing wilderness, the Minnesota chapter of The Nature Conservancy has cheering news. The organization has purchased 55 acres of flood-plain meadow and woods along the Sauk River near Cold Spring—an area unique because it contains a great blue heron rookery. The heron community has grown from about 300 nests 15 years ago to more than 900 nests last year, with an estimated 1,500 of the huge adult birds, plus their young.

The Nature Conservancy is to be congratulated on its foresight in adding this "heron town" to its 10 other tracts of land. All these holdings have been chosen with scientific care and purchased with funds contributed by individuals and foundations interested in preserving fine examples of Minnesota's natural assets.

Minneapolis *Tribune*

BLUE HERONS DESTROY FISH

To the Editor: In reference to the editorial "Saving the Blue Herons," we have observed the blue herons which nest in the property purchased by the Nature Conservancy killing two-pound northern pike reared in a pond six miles away. This is only one of many areas these birds use for feeding, and doubtless they destroy countless thousands of our fish.

Are these birds an asset to Minnesota conservation, or are they a detriment to our fishing?

F.H.

THOUSANDS ENJOY BLUE HERONS

To the Editor: A reader complains that the great blue herons are eating the pike he would like to catch. Herons do eat fish. They also eat frogs, eels, suckers, lizards, snakes, meadow mice, young rats, and great quantities of insects.

Otters eat fish. Bears eat fish. Eagles eat fish. Raccoons eat fish. Shall we, then, destroy any wildlife which shares our food? Has our fair world, with its diversity of plants and animals, been created solely for man to enjoy and destroy?

Let me quote from the U.S. Department of the Interior Conservation Year Book: "Unfortunately nearly 40 species of birds and mammals were lost to the United States within the past 150 years—half of them since 1900. Another 78, including reptiles, fish and amphibians, are on the present endangered list."

School children are brought in busses to our Museum of Natural History to see stuffed birds in a make-believe setting which they will never see in the open. Is it not fortunate that school children around St. Cloud and Cold Spring can visit "Heron Town" and know what conserving a natural area really means?

Fishermen do not have a monopoly on what is meant by "Minnesota conservation." Thousands of others thrill to the sight of the big birds flying; they go to the colony to get esthetic enjoyment and a sense of spiritual renewal in the wonders of nature.

There are students and biology researchers from the colleges in Minnesota who are studying the big birds and their effect on the habitat below. There are camera enthusiasts and bird clubs. I

Continued on page 22

THE VANISHING SPLEND
OF OUR UNIQUE PENINS

The one overpowering emotion that absorbs a visitor to south Florida is a sense of loss, a personal and penetrating consciousness of what this lower peninsula must have been not so very long ago. For, even with the devastating effects of a human population fundamentally interested in recreating a bewitching environment into its own rag-can image, the five-county area of south Florida continues to hold wonders of bird life and plant life. And even, here and there, an ecological unit has, through the perspicacity and the perseverance of the minority, been held from or grabbed back from the improvers.

How much more "improvement" can the area bear, one wonders, not just for the survival of its original inhabitants but for the survival of the usurping humans? The immense jet-port planned to rise north of the Everglades, between Miami and Naples, is a case in point. This mighty "improvement" may very well devastate the Everglades; yet no one we happened to speak to seemed to doubt very much that it would be built. It was not so much cynicism as resignation, the reaction of people who have been overwhelmed too many times by a vast opposing majority, whose will they feel they can scarcely overcome.

There is, of course, small consolation in the knowledge that inevitably in some future epoch, the Everglades River will slowly, remorselessly return south Florida to its natural, unique state.

BLOWING ROCKS

Our tour began with a visit to Jupiter Island, north of Palm Beach in Martin County. Here, just a little over a year ago, a group of citizens, distressed by the specter of improvement, this time in the form of motels and high-rise condominiums which would seriously damage an almost idyllic environment, banded together and vowed to do what they could to prevent the destruction at least of the beach area known as Blowing Rocks.

Jupiter Island, fortunately for Blowing Rocks, is a community which when aroused has the economic ability to accomplish a purpose expeditiously. In a very short period, the group had organized within the national Conservancy as a project committee of The Nature Conservancy. Fund raising began with no time wasted, and it was only a matter of weeks before the Blowing Rocks Sanctuary was established.

The sanctuary is in many ways an astonishing area, with the great barrier of coral-like rock it presents to the surf. Occasionally a seemingly unaccountable break in the barrier allows the surf to smooth the sands and it is at such places that the loggerhead turtles lumber ashore to lay their extensive clutches.

The so-called rock, extremely hard, was formed by a worm of the genus *serpulidae,* very much in the way coral is formed. The action of the waves has, here and there, possibly where encapsulated large oyster shells had weakened the rock's tight structure, worn away the substance, leaving chimney-like cavities. When the tide is coming in, the pressure of the inrushing surf forces water upwards through the chimneys to spurt dramatically over the beach.

WEST SHORE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Except for the squadrons of brown pelicans patrolling the shallow waters off Blowing Rocks, there were few birds. But only a few hundred yards behind the beach is the Inland Waterway, and on this side of the sanctuary, birdlife is abundant. There are many herons and egrets. Pelicans and cormorants roost in the Australian pines, an introduced species of casuarina, not pine, which though attractive to look at is far too much at home in Florida to be welcome. It seems to be establishing itself everywhere.

In the channel, manatees browse on the turtle grass and frequently show themselves among the red mangrove roots and sometimes in the middle of the channel. Among the mangroves, buzzards have nearly completed their improvement of a porpoise carcass.

On the opposite shore of the Waterway lies part of a narrow 3½-mile strip of shore that remains virtually untouched except for one small motel and a few water tanks used to impound water for the drilled wells that supply Jupiter Island. Encouraged by its success in saving Blowing Rocks, the project committee has set out to

OR
ULA

preserve this stretch of shoreline. It is not inconceivable that within a few years this 3½-mile strip will be the only natural area that boaters on the Waterway will pass.

FUCHS HAMMOCK

Some 115 miles south of Jupiter Island, near Homestead, we visited the Conservancy's newest Florida project, Fuchs Hammock. The hammock, a project of the Florida Chapter, is a little over fifteen acres in extent and is considered to be the one choice hammock remaining unprotected in Dade County, a county twice the size of Rhode Island.

A hammock is most simply defined as a land island of mixed broadleaf hardwoods. *Oasis* would not seem an inappropriate term to apply to a hammock either. Once, before the Florida water table was lowered by the persistent construction of drainage canals, each hammock was protected by a natural moat which served as a barrier against the fires that periodically sweep the sawgrass of the Everglades. Now the hammocks are easy victims of the flames, and few of these ecological treasure troves remain.

Walking around the edge of Fuchs Hammock, one sees many unusual and interesting plants—poisonwood, wild coffee, lantana, satinwood, coontie, and agave. Bromeliads abound in the trees at the edge of the hammock. Catbirds and white-eyed vireos have made the underbrush their territory.

But a circuit of the hammock provides only a clue to what the interior contains. There, to one more accustomed to temperate America, it seems like a tropical jungle of ferns and mosses, bromeliads, orchids, and broadleaves that defy description or even differentiation. The most prepossessing tree is gumbo limbo, with its great girth and handsome reddish brown bark. Other lovely small trees and shrubs are the pigeon plum, pepperonia, the tree of paradise, coral bean, fiddlewood, rogueberry, and the ubiquitous poisonwood. Strangler figs are numerous. Strap fern and resurrection fern clothe the trees. *Thelypteirs schlerophylla,* a fern found nowhere else outside the Everglades, grows here. The most common of the many bromeliads is guzmania.

Fuchs Hammock

CHRIS CHRISTMAN

But it is the ferns and mosses of Fuchs Hammock that most interest the botanists, are most threatened, and supply the chief reason, beyond the aesthetic, for preserving the hammock. The Conservancy has approved the project, authorized the Fuchs Hammock Project Committee; and fund-raising has begun, with a campaign goal of $60,000.

ROOKERY BAY

South of Naples on the west coast, lies Rookery Bay, a 2,500-acre sanctuary of the Audubon Society. The Conservancy, with other organizations, played a significant role in the preserving of Rookery Bay.

John Allen, warden biologist at the sanctuary, was skipper and guide on a boat excursion through this beautiful area of quiet inlets, mangrove islands, exposed sand bars, and expanses of shallow water. What a visitor can actually see at Rookery Bay is determined in large part by the tides. The higher the tide the more closely he may observe the wood storks, white ibis, snowy egrets, Ward's herons (here replacing the great blues), the pelicans and cormorants, the little blue, the green, and the Louisiana herons. A lower tide means the dunlins, the sandpipers, and the plovers are working the exposed bars and flats and are fairly indifferent to observation.

Despite its name, the sanctuary plays a less prominent role as a rookery than it does as nursery and roost. Wading birds fledged away from the bay are led there to mature, where the rich shallow waters are ideal for the purpose.

In the fall of 1967, at the invitation of the Collier County Conservancy, the Conservation Foundation, aided by the Ford Foundation, undertook a six-month study in the Rookery Bay Sanctuary area designed to develop and demonstrate ways of resolving the conflicts in the area between preservation and development. Whether profit-oriented development surrounding the sanctuary could be compatible with conservation principles was the question to be approached by the project. The foundation's very interesting report of its findings has been published and is available for $2.50 from The Conservation Foundation, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

SANIBEL ISLAND

Off the coast of Lee County, at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee, lie Sanibel and Captiva Islands, famed for the wealth of seashells that once washed onto their beaches. Sanibel Island is fortunate in having a dedicated group of conservationists who, after helping to put together the "Ding" Darling Sanctuary for the Fish and Wildlife Service a few years ago, have followed up eagerly with other projects. Calling themselves the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, the citizens group is closely allied with The Nature Conservancy.

Funds are now being raised for two major purchases on Sanibel. Running nearly the length of the island is a unique fresh water solugh, known alternatively as Sanibel River or Sanibel Slough. A core 138-acre section of this slough, the most strategic tract, will, unless it soon finds protection, inevitably be drained and filled. The Foundation is immediately concerned with the purchase of this tract as a key to the entire slough.

On Pine Island Sound, an area of approximately 22 acres with a thousand feet of frontage on the sound is also being purchased. This area, protecting the tidal areas, is intended as a supplement to the slough and will be the site of the Foundation's marine laboratory being planned in cooperation with Florida Atlantic University.

The total plan for Sanibel-Captiva is extraordinarily well founded and when completed might serve as a model for other communities blessed with unspoiled natural areas.

A recent gift to the Conservancy is the Akers Reservation, a 12½-acre tract donated by Admiral and Mrs. E. G. Konrad. Although at some distance from the core area now being purchased, it is part of Sanibel Slough and will hopefully at some future time be linked with the other tracts to form one preserve.

There is only one way to appreciate the Akers Reservation and that is to see it by canoe, through the criss-crossing channels. In order that the area may remain wild, visitors are now discouraged unless on scientific business.

The anhinga, an unlikely bird, roams beneath the surface, prying for food into any vegetation that looks promising. When he comes up for air, his long, slim neck and head seem completely reptilian. Others stand in the branches above, their wings hung out to dry, for, though one would imagine that on a bird so aquatic in habit, water-proofing would be standard equipment, it is not.

As we come upon them around a corner, half a dozen puddle ducks rise and vanish before we can identify them. The herons that seem to be everywhere in Florida are here as well—great blues, little blues, greens—and, of course, the egrets, the kingfishers, and the kestrels.

Of all the Florida birds, it is not a waterfowl but a bird of the sky that seems most ubiquitous, the beautiful little kestrel. At least this was so in January. Few creatures are a greater treat to the eye than this graceful, handsome, spirited little hawk. His strong wing beats, his hovering, his diving, his splendid maneuvers—all mark him instantly and he seems to be everywhere. The wonder is that he survives in such numbers when so many of his fellows are vanishing. Possibly the mice and grasshoppers and sparrows that sustain him are less poisoned with DDT than is the larger prey of the peregrine or the merlin.

There are alligators in the Konrads' tract, and we noted three young ones, less than two feet long, and one very large and very black adult, swimming ahead of our canoe, very fast. She swung around a corner and vanished, though no doubt we remained under her surveillance.

ST. VINCENT ISLAND

The final stop on this brief tour of some of the Florida conservancies was St. Vincent Island, lying nearly 300 air miles northwest of Sanibel, just off the coast at Apalachicola. This 12,000-acre island has now been turned over to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife though the Conservancy still needs about $30,000 in order to pay its obligations on the island.

A vast area of mixed habitat, including marsh, fresh water ponds, palm forests, deciduous forests, dry sandy tracts, and miles of Gulf beaches as well as marshy bay shore, St. Vincent really requires at least a week's stay for a visitor to more than glimpse its delights.

During just a brief truck ride over the island's rough trails in the early afternoon, warning anything and everything of our approach, we nevertheless sighted forty-six species of birds. How many more someone with time and quiet on his side might have spotted, who knows? Most memorable was a threesome of grackles so startlingly and brilliantly orange bronze that it seems hard to believe that the bronzed grackle is not, as ornithologists have good reason to believe he is not, a distinct species.

For many years a population of exotic mammals, including zebras, elands, sambur, and sika deer was maintained on the island by the former private owners. But now the zebras and the elands have been removed. However, the sambur, a kind of elegant marsh elk, with a chic reddish coat and handsome black and white antlers, is fairly abundant and quite at home on St. Vincent. His melodic bugling echoes through the marshes, and many a tree trunk has been rubbed smooth by

St. Vincent Island, Florida

him. The little sika deer, too, is now an adopted son of St. Vincent and will be permitted to remain.

Feral pigs are too abundant and it is they, with their rooting, that account for the rough trails. Most of the pigs eventually will be trapped and removed. A feral cow and steer roam the island, but only rarely are seen. There are many white-tailed deer, 'possums, raccoons, otters, foxes, and other small animals. Just a few alligators have escaped the poacher.

The wilderness, the beauty, the incomparable peace of St. Vincent now are secure for posterity. Here, perhaps, as much as anywhere, one can feel a sense of what Florida must once have been. This, of course, is north Florida, far from that tropical southern peninsula and more similar to coastal Georgia and Carolina than to south Florida; yet here too one gets that overwhelming sense of loss, that bitter regret for a lost time, when man's imprint was not so vigorously apparent.

NEWS BRIEFS

AMERICAN MOTOR COMPANY AWARD TO CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy is the winner of the 1969 American Motors Conservation Award, made annually to one national organization. The award was announced at the presentation dinner held in Washington on May 21. Roy D. Chapin, American Motors board chairman, in announcing the award, said: "Like all business and industrial enterprises, we are indebted to all groups and individuals who work to preserve America's renewable natural resources. It is with this thought that American Motors honors those who have made outstanding contributions to conservation, and who, by virtue of their achievements, have inspired others."

Local conservation groups honored with awards were the Grand Mere Association, Stevensville, Michigan; the Tropical Audubon Society, Miami, Florida; and the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

American Motors Conservation Award group winners were selected by a committee including Arthur H. Carhart, authority on national parks and forests and consultant for the Conservation Library Center, Denver; C. R. Gutermuth, vice president of the Wildlife Management Institute; Charles Callison, executive director of the National Audubon Society; Richard H. Pough, Pelham, New York, director of the Natural Area Council, Inc.; and Dr. A. Starker Leopold, professor of zoology at the University of California. The awards program is directed by Ed Zern, writer on conservation and outdoor sports.

Presentation of the award will be made at the Conservancy's Annual Meeting in Seattle, August 22-23.

Dark green and white shoulder patches are available from the National Office for one dollar each. Chapters may order in lots of 25 at $.80 each. The cloth shoulder patches, approximately 2½ inches by 4½ inches show a dark green Conservancy emblem with the organization's name embroidered on it. They are attractive emblems for field jackets.

ANTI-JETPORT COALITION

A coalition of 18 national conservation and supporting organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, has called for a halt on construction of a mammoth international jetport 50 miles west of Miami. The charge, substantially supported, is that the jetport will gravely endanger the Everglades National Park and adjoining conservation areas.

The proposed jetport, on which construction has been started with an initial $500,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, would eventually cover 39 square miles of Everglades country, just north of the park and west of three state conservation areas. A proposed 1,000-foot right-of-way designed for superspeed ground transportation would cut through the Everglades area to connect the jetport with Miami.

The statement issued in April notes that "the primary keys to the solution of this problem lie in the hands of the Secretary of Transportation. The FAA . . . must make the final decision as to whether the jetport should be constructed at this location. The Federal Highway Administration will have to make the final decision as to whether and where the access road should be built. Enormous contributions of federal funds are involved, and the Secretary of Transportation can decide whether the facility should be built elsewhere or not built at all."

Organizations signing the statement were, besides the Conservancy, National Parks Association, National Audubon Society, American Forestry Association, The Wildlife Society, The Wilderness Society, Wildlife Management Institute, Sierra Club, Citizens Committee on Natural Resources, National Wildlife Federation, American Fisheries Society, Natural Area Council, National Recreation and Parks Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Anti-Pollution League, Department of Conservation of the United Automobile Workers of America, Florida Audubon Society, and Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.

A copy of the full statement may be had by writing National Parks Association, 1701 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

KENTUCKY PRIZE

The University of Kentucky Press is offering a $5,000 grant for "the best scholarly work in progress on any aspect of ecology or conservation." For further information write the director, University of Kentucky Press, Lexington.

COMMENDATION FROM NEVADA LEGISLATURE

The Assembly of the State of Nevada in April passed a resolution commending The Nature Conservancy for its efforts to save valuable recreation lands. Referring to the Conservancy's actions in acquiring an option on the Townsite of Berlin, a ghost town adjacent to the Ichthyosaur Paleontological State Monument, and holding the option from 1967 until the Legislature could in 1969 appropriate funds for state purchase, the Assembly commends The Nature Conservancy for "its farsightedness and generous assistance [which] provided for the safekeeping of a colorful and well-preserved ghost town, established the mechanics for acquiring water rights imperative to the very survival of the Ichthyosaur site and obtained tenure on a cabin in Berlin which is used for housing the Ichthyosaur park manager."

The resolution of commendation was adopted by the State Assembly on April 1, 1969, and by the State Senate on April 10, 1969. The Reno *Evening Gazette* editorialized about the Conservancy: "The [Conservancy] is non-profit but it is certainly private enterprise."

STUDY PROGRAM BENEFITS PRESERVE

For the third successive year, the Biological Field Studies Association, in cooperation with the Bodega Marine Laboratory at the University of California, sponsored a study program at Bodega Bay on the Pacific Coast in northern California. The 3-day program, put on for the benefit of the Cleary Preserve, in Napa County, attracted twenty-five registrants.

The institute's faculty, ten resident marine scientists from the Bodega Marine Laboratory and elsewhere, provided a program intended for persons interested in extending their comprehension and appreciation of nature, as well as for biology students doing research work.

Called "The Ocean's Edge," the program was described in the prospectus as an opportunity "to study first-hand the life of the inter-tidal zone, comparing and contrasting protected and unprotected rocky beaches, sandy beaches, and mud flats." The laboratory and classrooms of the Bodega Marine Lab were used to supplement the field work.

This program was followed several weekends later by a field trip to the Cleary Preserve itself. The Cleary Preserve is being acquired by the Biological Field Studies Association through the assistance of The Nature Conservancy. It is situated at a climactic border zone; therefore it contains an unusually large variety of botanical species and provides an opportunity for the student to study many unique biotic communities.

Tuition for the 3-day Bodega Bay program was $40. For the 2-day Cleary Preserve program, tuition was $30. Sonoma State College allowed one unit of credit for participation in either program for an additional $6 filing fee. After enrolling all registrants received detailed schedules, instructions, and suggested reading lists.

Here is an unusual and worthwhile way to make excellent use of a preserve suited for such a purpose. Simultaneously, the Conservancy publicizes its accomplishments, raises funds for a project, and performs a valuable public service.

BANGOR TV COVERAGE

For the third consecutive year, television station WLBZ-TV in Bangor, Maine, has volunteered to run regular spot announcements at prime time, publicizing the work of The Nature Conservancy and encouraging gifts of land. The colored slides of Maine preserves used in the announcements are provided from the collection at National Headquarters; the audio is provided by the station.

WLBZ-TV's manager, Mr. Rudy Marcoux, emphasizes that all television and radio stations have an obligation to devote a certain amount of time to public service announcements. Commenting on the ever increasing threats to the environment resulting in an incredible daily loss of open space and natural areas, he says he knows no organization more devoted to the public good than the Conservancy.

FIRST PH.D. TREATS TNC PROJECT

Cedarburg Beech Woods, a 1963 project of The Nature Conservancy, hence conveyed to the University of Wisconsin, is the subject of the thesis of the first Ph. D. in botany to be awarded by the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Thomas F. Grittinger spent many strenuous days in all seasons collecting the data for "Vegetational Patterns and Edaphic Relationships in Cedarburg Bog." According to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station's *Bulletin,* "Tom collected not only a tremendous amount of data and many voucher specimens of plants, but also countless mosquito bites, frost bite, soaked clothing, and sumac poisoning."

NEWSPAPER COMMENT

A key 160-acre tract west of Lake Tahoe, will be purchased by the Nature Conservancy to forestall a housing development there. Huey D. Johnson, the Conservancy's regional director in San Francisco, announced the land will be bought out of a fund set up by Rodney Johnson, 82, a retired Newport Beach businessman, attorney, and engineer.

The key property, surrounded by 28 square miles of the Tahoe National Forest, will be bought for $160,000. Joseph Flynn, U.S. Forest Service's assistant regional forester for land, said the tract is about seven miles west of Tahoe City. . . He said it probably is "a good guess" that land in that area is appreciating in value by 8 to 10 per cent a year.

Oakland *Tribune*

RUTH RICKETTS

Interest in acquisition of the property Rock Cave, Illinois was stimulated more than ten years ago, when area foresters recognized unusual rock formations and plant life on the acreage. Eventually the tract will be given to an Illinois school . . . Representatives from the University of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University, and other colleges testified to the territory's unusual plant life, which includes the shadblow, native to Wisconsin; the spicebush, plentiful farther south; and the wahoo plant.

Decatur (Ill.) Herald and Review

Clark's Bog may never rank with the Grand Canyon as a tourist attraction, but some Iowans kind of like it. Clark's Bog? That's a tiny patch of hill and dale southeast of Palo. To the passerby, of which there are few, it looks like just so much scrub land.

Closer inspection, however, reveals a wide variety of wild flowers. . . The corner of the place has a north-facing hill where the ground is covered with green and where dense woods create near darkness in the summer months. Protected from direct sun most of the day, the bog is a dark, moist place. Biologists define it as a hanging bog.

Up from underground rock formations seeps a steady flow of lime-sweetened water. A visitor standing on the hillside hears the bubbling water and can see it trickling down the slope from a hundred springs into small pools.

Clark's Bog has been purchased by a unique private organization called The Nature Conservancy, with headquarters in Washington. . . The new owners won't promote the bog or any other of their properties as tourist attractions. Rather, they will try to preserve them in their natural state. . . Much of the realty sought by the Conservancy won't be any loss to fun-seeking picnickers anyway. Dank Clark's Bog just would not appeal to them. But to The Nature Conservancy, according to Paul Christiansen, chairman of the Iowa chapter, places such as the bog "are priceless, in that they cannot be reproduced."

Cedar Rapids *Gazette*

If conservation is a debt that the present owes to the future generations then the Nature Conservancy is the one organization that has overpaid its obligation. . . What a magnificent job it has done! Nationally it has saved about 350 remnants of wilderness, totalling well over 100,000 acres. These include preglacial bogs in Wisconsin, virgin white oak woods in Ohio, a mountain in Georgia, a canyon in California, and a four-mile stretch of a Massachusetts river. Ohioans are fortunate in that Conservancy projects have saved for future generations more than 1,000 acres of wildlife habitat including a marsh, a prairie, spectacular rock formations, and a primeval woodland . . . If you are searching for a most worthwhile agency to which to make a contribution as part payment of the debt we all owe to the future, send it to The Nature Conservancy. . .

Cincinnati *Enquirer*

FIELD TRIPS, FORUMS, SALMON BAKE SEATTLE IN AUGUST

Plans for this year's Annual Meeting of The Nature Conservancy, the twentieth, to be held in Seattle August 22-23, are well along. By now, all members should have received the Annual Meeting Notice, with registration form and hotel reservation form. A big turnout is anticipated.

Two interesting field trips are scheduled prior to the Conference, one to various preserves and parks in western Washington, the other to preserves and parks in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Both trips are by air-conditioned modern chartered bus, and the price includes transportation, meals and lodging.

The western Washington tour will commence in Seattle on Sunday August 17. Conservancy areas to be visited include the Rawson Grant, Anderson Lake, and Mima Prairie. Green River Gorge, a potential Conservancy tract, will be inspected. Olympic and Rainier National Parks are also on the schedule. The tour concludes in Seattle on Wednesday the 20th. Cost is $170, with an advance deposit of $25 required. After August 1, the deposit is non-refundable. It should be sent to the National Conference Committee in care of the national office in Washington.

The northern Idaho-eastern Washington tour commences in Spokane on Tuesday August 19 and ends in Seattle the afternoon of Thursday August 21. Visits are planned to the Dishman Hills Natural Area, Rose Creek Preserve, Idler's Rest, Moxee Bog, and Engelhorn Pond. Two highlights of the tour are expected to be a float trip down the Yakima River and a boat trip to beautiful Upper Priest Lake in Idaho. Cost is $125, with an advance deposit of $20, which is non-refundable after August 1.

Both tours must be limited to 38 participants; if you wish to go, it is important that your deposit be received promptly. Competent directors will accompany each tour.

The Conference itself gets underway on Friday the 22nd, with the Registration Desk opening at 8:30 a.m. Four forums on topics of interest to all Conservancy members are scheduled for the four days. The first, titled "Defense of Natural Areas" will feature short papers by Gregory Archbold, attorney and director of the San Francisco Bay Project of the Conservancy; Huey D. Johnson, the Conservancy's Western Regional Director; and George W. Overton, counsel for the Illinois Chapter.

A forum on fund-raising techniques will open with short papers to be given by Keith Artz and Si Foote, Western Representatives of the Conservancy; and William Canine, director of development of the Conservancy. The third forum, "New Ideas in Conservation," will have as speakers R. Thomas Tanner of Oregon State University; George Hudson, Chairman of the Inland Empire Chapter; and Douglas Ferguson, a San Francisco attorney.

The theme of the final forum is "TNC Membership in a Research Role. Is it Feasible?" Speakers will be Dr. Arthur Kruckeburg, Chairman of the Western Washington Chapter; Mrs. Elna Bakker, Board Member, Southern California Chapter; Mrs. Ivah Deering, Board Member, Western Washington Chapter; and Dr. Joseph Hickey, member of the Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy.

The Annual Dinner Friday evening will feature a .kick-off address from the Honorable Daniel J. Evans, Governor of the State of Washington. Alexander B. Adams, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Conservancy will deliver a report on his years as governor, president, and Chairman of the Board, entitled "Valedictory of a Conservationist."

The Awards Luncheon is at noon on Saturday. Presentation of the American Motors Company award for 1969 Conservation Organization of the Year will be made to the Conservancy. In addition, guests and Chapters will be recognized. Concluding the luncheon will be the awarding of the Green Leaf to twelve Conservancy members.

Concluding the Conference Saturday evening will be a boat trip to Blake Island State Park in Puget Sound and a salmon bake on the island. Assuredly, this will be a highlight of the Conference.

For anyone so inclined on Sunday morning, one final field trip is planned, this one to a beautiful preserve near Seattle, Wildflower Acres (the Deering Preserve).

Plan to come to the 1969 Annual Conference, and if you have not already done so, return your advance registration blank so that the Committee may know which events you will be attending and can better prepare for a fine conference.

BOOKS

NATURAL AREAS IN INDIANA AND THEIR PRESERVATION, by Alton A. Lindsey, Damian V. Schmelz and Stanley A. Nichols. *Indiana Natural Areas Survey, Purdue University (1969) 606 pp., illustrated.*

Indiana produced Booth Tarkington and James Whitcomb Riley and, of course, Gene Stratton Porter, who wrote so sensitively of the Limberlost swamp (now drained and under the plow). In recent decades, industrial development and intensive agriculture have altered, and in some cases, destroyed the greenery of the Hoosier countryside. Chroniclers of rural life and the natural world seem less important in the Indiana of 1969 than they did in 1920. In this book three Purdue biologists show us how important are natural areas to man as such areas become more and more rare. To quote the authors, "A land ethic has grown too slowly and loss is progressing too rapidly."

Of some 162 areas described in the book, 87 are listed as still in private ownership. Many of these owners are dedicated to preservation rather than exploitation and we are told that an innate love of nature in the family is the reason for preservation through the decades to the present time. But the authors are careful to point out that the heirs may not be interested in preservation, or even if they are, some estates are broken up involuntarily. Thus additional protection is needed if Hoosier naturalists are to rest easy about the ecologically valuable sites in private ownership.

The plan of *Natural Areas in Indiana* is based on the eight major natural divisions in the state ranging from the Northeastern Moraine and Kettle Division to the Lower Wabash Division in the southwest. Within each division are described the natural areas located there. Sites of biological and geological interest are included, with the former predominating. Historical sites featuring the works of man are omitted.

Courage is an attribute easily fastened on authors Lindsey, Schmelz and Nichols. They not only describe and evaluate each area, they rate each one as to priority! Those recommended for permanent preservation are rated on a scale of one through four. A fifth class includes sites considered to be questionable candidates for preservation.

The appendix contains an annotated list of 175 areas visited during the field survey but not included in the body of the book. Thus the authors rate brownie points for selectivity in addition to courage. And we are given information on a total of 337 areas in Indiana.

While the major thrust of *Natural Areas in Indiana* is the comprehensive background covering the known areas, the reader will find some philosophical gems concerning the environment on this planet. New to me were passages from a working church group recommending family planning and the setting aside of landscapes, " . . . . on deposit for the future."

Even more striking is the definition of a natural area as "a place made by Him, not by us."

Natural Areas in Indiana and Their Preservation will hopefully signal new action in the Hoosier state in the preservation of nature. This book is certain to be the major reference work in this field for some time to come.

W.A.E.

This book is issued as a report to the Ford Foundation, which financed the survey. Copies are available at all university and college libraries in the United States and at all public libraries in Indiana. The book is not for sale.

WHAT'S LEFT, by Berton Roueché. *Little, Brown (1969) $5.95; 210 pp.*

As a long-time contributor on that skilled team that supplies the *New Yorker* with its Amazon of prose, Mr. Roueché can be expected to be interesting in whatever he writes. Each of the eight essays comprising this volume is, in its self-effacing way, that. Even, now and then, he allows a hint of wrath to creep into his otherwise controlled narration. When, for example, he sees the famous Witness Tree of the Big Thicket and realizes it is now nothing but a giant stump, he is more than just annoyed. After all, it *had been* poisoned by anti-conservationists who do not want to see the Big Thicket become a National Monument. Or when he realizes the underwater gardens of the Biscayne National Monument may not forever remain as they are he feels "suddenly angry." Clearly he loathes whatever it is in twentieth century man that does not permit him to care what sort of world he leaves behind him.

The essays have a pleasant variety of locale—the C. & O. Towpath, the Current River in the Ozarks, Elliot Key, a wild rice lake in Minnesota, the Sonoran Desert, Wyoming's Green River, King Island in the Bering Sea, and the Big Thicket. The book's pieces are tied neatly together not only by the theme implicit in the title but by the fact that usually his account is of a day's-length outing, with lunch realistically placed at its center. A

measure of the writer's skill is the way the reader savors those fried trout, baked beans, Vienna sausage, liverwurst sandwiches, bacon and eggs, or whatever the *pièce de résistance* for the day is.

It is unfair to criticize *New Yorker* essays for their detachment when, if they were anything but detached, they would have had to find another home. Still, most of us are not so polished that we do not let out a cry when we are anguished; we do not comment, "Oh, dear." And when a man clearly has the capacity to feel, one cannot help wishing he could cry a little and perhaps cause others to do the same.

W.C.

THE POPULATION BOMB, by Paul R. Ehrich. *Ballantine Books (1968) $2.95 or paper $.95; 223 pp.*

Here is authoritative, comprehensive and indispensible reading if mankind is to survive and continue to strive for essential values in living on this earth. Fundamental to all other current issues —pollution of the natural environment, urban shambles, peace-war—is this challenge for control of the number of human beings trying to live on this round earth. Man and his environment are inseparable. Practical proposals for realistic action by both individuals and groups are included.

The style? Simple, direct, easy-to-read, pungent, seemingly effortless. Every word is effective. Both facts and meanings are made inescapably clear.

The author? Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich, Professor of Biology and Director of Graduate Study for the Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University. His specialty is population biology. In actuality, this book seems to be a distillation of the creative thinking of many persons, as he notes in the Acknowledgements, mentioning by name thirteen in his own department, five in other departments at Stanford, and three in still other departments in other universities.

Population control is today's most critical challenge, basic to all other efforts to encourage meaningful human living.

David Brower, in the introduction, says, "We cannot forever continue to multiply and subdue the earth without losing our standard of life and the natural beauty that must be a part of it." He spotlights the urgency of the problem to conservationists, including those who focus on preservation of wilderness.

WHY NOT BUY A DOZEN AND GIVE AWAY ELEVEN?

Dorothea Marston

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

The 1967-68 annual report of the Republic of South Africa's Department of Nature Conservation notes that a total of 150 cases of violation of the game laws were tried in the courts during the year. Conservancy members having difficulty with flowerpickers in their preserves may be interested in—even charmed by—the fines handed down for "picking protected indigenous plants without permit": 13 separate offenders received fines totalling 100 rands (about $12) *and 3 cane strokes.*

For readers of *Born Free* who remember Pati, the pet rock hyrax, an animal of considerable character and charm, from the same report mentioned above, we learn that "possibly as a result of caracal, jackal, and black eagle destruction, the rock hyrax *(Procavia capensis)* has become a plague to South African farmers." In a 43-hour hunt, Mr. S. V. Phillips, a houndmaster of the Predator Control Division, with two Jack Russell terriers and five cross-breed fox terriers "killed no less than 423 dassies [hyraxes] in 42 hours hunting on Mr. Vermaak's farms. . . It is of particular interest that 218 of these dassies were pregnant females with either two or three unborn young, which means that at least 700 animals were accounted for in this short operation."

Another creature thriving as a result of predator control is the Cape chacma baboon *(Papio ursinus).* Telodrin is used to control the baboon, and since he is also a key animal in medical research, efficient live-trapping techniques are being developed.

Again as a result of the ecological upset resulting from too ardent predator control, the dune mole *(Bathyergus suillus)* also has broken out of bounds. The Department of Agriculture awaits with interest the worldwide fur trade's reaction to the notion of dune moleskin coats.

LETTER

Of all the organizations to which I contribute, I find that your cause is the most worthwhile and satisfying. The loss of natural beauty and wildlife is so tragically irreversible if not caught in time. May you continue to succeed in your many worthy projects.

Victor N. Takara
Honolulu, Hawaii

MAN— AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The following letter appeared in the Faculty Dames Newsletter of Northwest Missouri State College. It was written by Patti Easterla, the wife of last year's Missouri Chapter Chairman.

In the light of the awareness we all have for the coming of spring, it is appalling to realize the state of ignorance that surrounds many of us in regard to what we are doing to our environment and hence to ourselves. Living in our age of technical and scientific progress, we have allowed our great powers to build great things, only to leave in their wake destruction. Where we have developed pesticides to allow more food to be produced, we have left sterile bald eagles and peregrine falcons. What will happen to our own bodies remains to be seen. One gallon of water from the Mississippi River at St. Louis today, mixed with ten gallons of pure water, would still kill fish. Lake Erie has become a dead lake, unfit for life. The crucial issue of air pollution has finally made an imprint on the layman for the simple reason that it can be seen, felt, and occurs, so to speak, under his very nose. Something five blocks from his own home that does not directly affect his five senses is "the other guy's problem." Ten years ago the term *noise pollution* would have been a joke. Today it not only threatens the physical features of our land, but the noise tolerance level of certain animals has become a concern. *Less than 10%* of our country is still undeveloped wilderness. Yet the crush moves onward: a huge international airport has been proposed for Florida that would mean virtual destruction of the unique and irreplaceable Everglades National Park. We have managed to push 26 species of American wildlife to extinction since the turn of the century—quite a feat when one considers the fantastic amount of time Nature takes to eliminate an unfit species—and have such animals as the polar bear, alligator, black-footed ferret, and duck hawk on the brink.

Yet man himself is still the greatest endangered species. His technology is uncontrolled; he has not yet learned that when something is put into the environment it produces a reaction. Our environment, not a laboratory, has been the testing ground. Certainly the biggest challenge to our civilization is whether we can now learn to handle our new knowledge, which has so much potential for good. It can only be hoped that we learn this before we break a critical link of the chain of life that binds us so inalterably to all other living things.

Maryville seems far removed from these dangers, and it is difficult to understand a danger as subtle as the one the human species now faces. But it is time for the call for help to go out beyond the groups who are aesthetically attuned to the out-of-doors. It is no longer a matter of nature hikes or birdwatching or camping trips. The scientific facts are indisputable: now we must have the understanding and cooperation of society. It is a matter of life and death. While our minds are concerned with Vietnam and race problems, the subtle killer is at work. It matters not on which side you fight or what color you are. Biologically we all react to the same things and are equally susceptible. What if everyone refused to wear coats or shoes made from the pelts or skins of endangered species? What if each of us increased our awareness of the problems we face and stood behind legislation aimed at environmental control? What if everyone of us instilled within our children a respect for our natural world and an understanding of how to treat that world —develope within them a moral consciousness?

It is sad on such a lovely spring day to sit here and write of such heavy things, when emotions urge only to enjoy the light and bright of spring. In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love—may he always have a spring.

Continued from page 11

would ask the fisherman to look for other causes of fish shortages. A granite works dumps iron dust and granite dust into the Sauk River, which flows past the heron colony. For several miles the pollution of the river is so extensive that the oxygen content is gone and no fish can live there.

Then we have pollution by pesticides, which drift in the air and are carried by rains and natural seepage through the soil into our streams, lakes and rivers. Studies of the organochlorine pesticide residues in birds show that herons contain hundreds of times the concentration of the pesticide found in non-fisheating birds. Perhaps the fisherman should be thankful a DDT-polluted fish went into the heron's gullet instead of his frypan.

Edith Peller, librarian,
Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis

Lower Tubbs Island,
San Francisco Bay

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